



Public Health
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CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

JOSEPH A. CURTATONE
MAYOR

COMMISSION FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

10 March 2020

Regular Monthly Meeting

Present: Nancy Bacci, Acting Staff Liaison, Director Human Services
Bonnie Denis, Chair (remote)
Colin Killick, Commissioner
Brian Postlewaite, Secretary, Assist. Director of Engineering

Absent: Finn Gardner, Commissioner

Guests: Lian Guertin, Resident
Katie Milton, Resident
Jon Springfield, POAH Representative

General Business

- Meeting commenced on 10 March at 6:35pm.
- Introductions

Guest Presentation

- None.

Chair's Report

- None.

Director's Report

- None.

Old Business

- Review of POAH's written response to Commission's discussion about the Clarendon Hills Project in February. The Commission provided the following comments:
 - POAH did not adequately respond to the request for quiet units for people sensitive to environmental and neighbor noises.
 - Commission requested the addition of seating in long halls for the elderly and disabled.
 - Commission requested the provision of bathroom lights and fans on separate switches.
 - Commission requested the location of general accessible parking spaces located adjacent to van accessible parking spaces with the same ceiling height to provide for cars with rooftop wheelchair racks.
 - In reviewing the sample unit plans, the Commission expressed concerns that the bathroom vanities would be difficult to modify for accessible use.
 - In reviewing the sample unit plans, the Commission expressed concerns that the galley kitchens are not sufficiently accessible. Open kitchens are substantially more maneuverable and accessible.
 - Commission expressed concern that townhouse units were not accessible. Jon Springfield noted that planning & zoning require townhouses raised off the ground with a stoop, and the 13'-6" wide townhouses do not provide enough porch area to install a ramp; POAH will explore the ability to provide accessible entrances at the rear of the buildings.
 - Commission observed that Streets #1 and #2 may have running slopes exceeding 5%, which would require an MAAB variance.
 - The project expects to break ground in Autumn 2020; phase one opening in Autumn 2022; phase opening Autumn 2024 to Spring 2025.

New Business

- General, open-ended discussion about Commission's outreach with the public and potentially attract new members. Below is a list of thoughts that were discussed.
 - We would be interested in tabling at various community events.
 - Develop subcommittees to address specific concerns, even if those subcommittees do not immediately have members.
 - We should discuss why we joined the committee.
 - Develop actionable tasks.
 - Develop annual priorities.
 - Identify individual skills that would be to the Commission.
 - Conduct an internal strengths & skills assessment.
 - Determine what the Commission can reasonably accomplish. Who can we advocate to, the City and/or the State?

Public Input

- Observation that grocery delivery is not possible with SNAP, which is a concern to the disabled community since the value of grocery delivery is high, and the disabled community have a high proportion of SNAP users.
 - Nancy Bacci will check with Shape-up-Somerville to see how the mobile markets are able to accept SNAP.

Motion to Adjourn Meeting at 7:55pm; passed unanimously.